D8.1 National eHealth strategies
Information Note

WP8 Integration in National Policies and Sustainability

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Abstract: This Information Note describes the scope of and approach for Work Package 8 'Integration in National Policies and Sustainability' to be discussed and agreed upon by the eHN members.

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1.   Introduction

eHAction is a Joint Action that intends to support the eHealth Network (eHN) on some specific objectives. It was agreed by the eHN that the Action would mostly focus on the current Multiannual Work Programme (2018-2021). The main eHAction work is based on establishing interoperability for enhancing safe cross-border exchange of health data between health professionals and health providers. This kind of initiative can generate access for patients to their health data, wherever they are located. It is of utmost importance to be able to sustain a mechanism after the present Joint Action, as well as after the end of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) instrument. Further co-funding mechanisms could be designed and proposed, including those regarding modernisation of digital infrastructures (at European, national or regional level).

Nevertheless, in order to be able to conceive a shared vision on the sustainability of EU interoperability, one of the prerequisites is to have knowledge of the present situation in the EU scenario, with a clear description of the main initiatives and obstacles from each Member State (MS) to such common ground. This general panorama from the EU is extremely relevant to design the new strategies for eHealth in order to continue the policy cooperation post 2021.

The first step is to gain a deep understanding of where we are as a group of MS, in terms of sharing knowledge, as well as, on cross-border data exchanges, sharing eHealth strategies and best practices. To be able to deliver the EU scenario, there is a need to gather the existing landscape about eHealth strategy, derived from the Health strategy in each of the Member States.

To achieve this perspective, Work Package 8 (WP8) aims to support the eHN with strategic information about a way to enhance the integration of the cross-border knowledge. This key knowledge is based on a commonly agreed framework, rules, principles and best practices that are exchanged cross-border at EU level.

In order to meet the need to integrate eHealth at the EU level, WP8 applies key tools to collect and analyse the necessary information. This WP is composed of three tasks:

> T8.1 - *National eHealth strategies*
>
> Collects and analyses the national eHealth strategies, best practices and shared knowledge from the Member States (MS); for this reason, it is considered important that each MS dedicates some work effort to contribute to WP8 (this task is the focus of this document);

> T8.2 - *Policy document about technology report;*

> T8.3 - *Post 2021 Scenarios for eHealth policy cooperation*.

This Information Note provides a short description about the scope, objectives and work approach under Task 8.1 (T8.1), and a first attempt of the structure of the deliverable to be presented to the eHealth Network over the next year.

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2. Background

As part of the work of Task T8.1, in order to be able to propose some alignment between the MS eHealth initiatives, it will be useful to collate common structures and initiatives. The initial task was to build a tool to describe, in a structured way, the national health and eHealth ecosystem, including governance bodies, national health strategies and national eHealth initiatives, to be able to understand and relate the national health system organisation strategies.

This tool was based on the work done in JAseHN (WP7 – D7.1.1), which in turn was based on a dedicated survey. The WP leader (MoH France) has worked to simplify the analysis and ease the completion process to facilitate the data collection to be done by the representatives of each Member State. This will help to design the post 2021 scenarios for eHealth policy cooperation by proposing a common way in the potential upcoming European scenario.

The simplified tool consists of three parts:

1. A schematic description of the organisation of the health system in each country;
2. The national health programmes landscape and the links with the organisations;
3. A detailed list of the programmes and initiatives included in the national eHealth strategy.

To launch the work of WP8 and the discussions around this tool, France organised a Kick-off meeting, which was held on 21st and 22nd February 2019 in Paris.

In order to better prepare for the WP8 Kick-off meeting, instructions on how to complete the simplified tool and a request to start to populate it were sent to each country participating in WP8.

The WP leaders welcomed 33 WP8 contributors from 19 Member States: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain.

One of the objectives of the Kick-off meeting was to challenge the tool with some real examples of the knowledge shared, and to share it with all members of this Work Package. This meeting was focused on Task 8.1 and was organised with a mix of plenary sessions and active workshops.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

➢ Discuss and revise the simplified tool for describing in a structured way the national health and eHealth ecosystem, including governance bodies, national health strategies, national eHealth experiences and initiatives for each Member State;

➢ Prepare the work for the deliverable on 'national eHealth strategies' for the eHealth Network meeting of November 2019.

Thanks to the preliminary work and findings of the workshops, the WP leader and co-leader were able to quickly distribute a definitive version of the tool for each country to complete after the Kick-off meeting.

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3. Purpose

Work Package 8 is one of the key eHAction Work Packages in the European Commission's work objectives. Its work on 'Integration in National Policies and Sustainability' proposes elements for preparing the continuity post-2021 of the cross-border policy cooperation and integration of its results in national policies.

The overall proposal for Task T8.1 is:

➢ Collect present and future eHealth strategies and propose a direction to support their alignment;

➢ Present mechanisms on how to follow the evolution of eHealth strategies;

➢ Analyse the collected data in order to propose ways to align strategies and projects in the future.

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4. Approach and Methodology

The French and Portuguese teams are working together to organise this task as Work Package Leader and Co-leader respectively.

To prepare the draft Deliverable D8.1, WP8's activities are the following:

➢ Operational work of Work Package Leader and Co-Leader

  ➢ Steering Teleconferences (Tcons) are organised between the French and Portuguese teams every two weeks to organise WP8 activities.

  ➢ Other countries that are very involved in the WP8 activities or have a significant amount of Person Months (PMs) are considered for inclusion in these meetings.

➢ Coordination with WP8 members

  A Coordination Tcon is organised every month, gathering all the WP8 members in order to create the means to meet deadlines and share the progress of the work of WP8.

The methodology for the analysis of the information gathered by means of the tool is broken down into two steps:

1. The first step consists of a quick check to verify the granularity of the information.

2. The second step consists of the analysis of the information filled in the tool. The first driving principle is that each country may have to analyse the responses of all countries for a given part of the tool.

The WP leaders will distribute the separated sections of the tool for analysis between the WP8 members, in order to write a deliverable which identifies, in each section, the common points and the divergences.

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5. Next steps

Task T8.1 has already received data from the MS through completion of the tool.

The next step is to analyse the data collected through the tool on eHealth strategies and initiatives described above.

This will constitute the main part of Deliverable D8.1.

5.1. Planning of Task T8.1

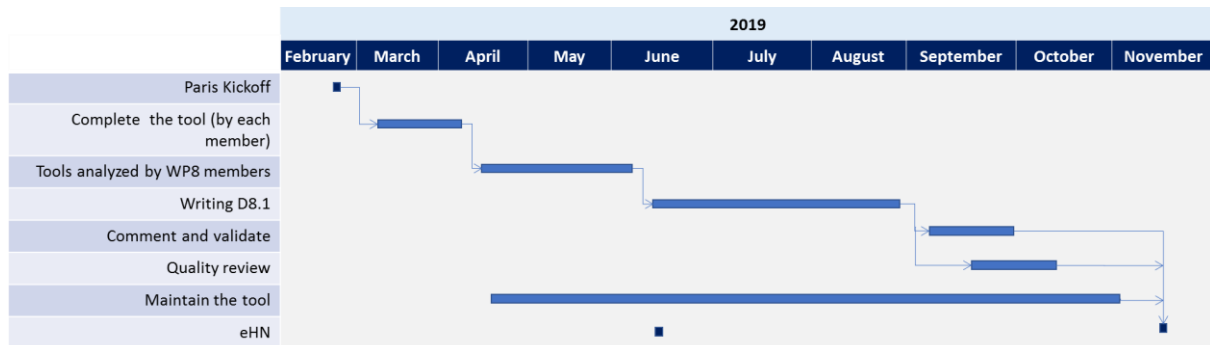The planning below presents next activities of WP8 leaders and T8.1 members.

Figure 1: T8.1 activities planning

5.2. Over next steps

After the endorsement of Deliverable D8.1, Task 8.3 will be initiated in parallel, building upon the first results of the D8.1 analysis. They will be presented and discussed in order to highlight the common features: initiatives and priorities, opportunities and potential obstacles, timeline and main challenges. This existing recombined landscape based on the eHealth strategies and initiatives in each of the Member States will constitute the baseline to design a common European scenario to secure the sustainability of personal data exchanges for the benefit of the mobile patient in Europe.

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Appendix 1.

A.1. Deliverable D8.1 – Report on national eHealth strategies

The expected deliverable for this Work Package is the Deliverable *D8.1 – Report on national eHealth strategies*. The table of contents of this deliverable will be as follows:

1. **Introduction**
   1.1. **Background**
   1.2. **Context**
   1.3. **Objectives**
2. **Analysis of national eHealth strategies**
   2.1. **Governance**
      2.1.1. **Overview**
      2.1.2. **Main findings**
   2.2. **Programmes landscape**
      2.2.1. **Overview**
      2.2.2. **Main findings**
   2.3. **eHealth initiatives**
      2.3.1. **Priorities**
         2.3.1.1. **Overview**
         2.3.1.2. **Main findings**
      2.3.2. **Enablers**
         2.3.2.1. **Overview**
         2.3.2.2. **Main findings**
3. **Conclusion**